

a --The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document

199 27 514.9 filed 16 June 1999 and International priority document PCT/EP00/05440 of June 14, 2000.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims ~~1-22~~, and replace them with the attached claims ~~23-44~~.

Please also add the attached abstract.

Please substitute the proposed drawing Figure 1 for Figure 1 as originally filed with PCT/EP00/05440.

REMARKS

Claims 23 - 44 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice. A one page abstract has also been added.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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